



Department Updates

July / August 2019

Clerk of Court

Sharon Millermon
Clerk of Court

All departments experience mandatory federal, state and county report deadlines and the Clerk of Circuit Court Office is no different.

2015 WI Act 355 went into effect creating Wis. Stat. 973.20(11)(e) that required the Department of Corrections and each Clerk of Court's Office to annually submit a report to the legislature that specifies:

- 1) The total amount of restitution ordered for each clerk to collect;
- 2) The administrative fee (5% restitution surcharge) each clerk of court collects; and
- 3) The amount of restitution collected by the clerk and disbursed to victims.

The first annual report was due July 1, 2017. The topic of restitution being collected and disbursed to victims has gotten a lot of attention over the last couple of years. The 2019 report indicates as follows for the period of 07/01/2018 – 06/30/2019:

Total Restitution Ordered: \$ 91,470.90

Total 5% Restitution Surcharge Collected: \$ 197.93

Total Restitution Collected: \$ 32,242.70

Total Disbursed to Victims: \$ 32,242.70

The 5% restitution surcharge collected by the Clerk of Court Office is retained by the county for administrative fees and is only collected after all restitution has been paid in full.

One can imagine that it is very difficult to collect restitution from defendants on behalf of victims for various reasons. One example is if a defendant is incarcerated and only earning prison wages, it may take many years to pay restitution based on earnings as little as \$.05 @ hour.

October, 2018, Barron County Clerk of Circuit Court Office entered into a contract with the Department of Revenue Statewide Debt Collection to assist in the collection. To date, \$11,708.66 has been collected and paid to victims of crime. Barron County is also one of the few counties in the State to hold monthly Restitution Court hearings to monitor defendant's progress in paying monthly ordered restitution payments.

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Human Resources

Rachael Richie, HR Director

Position	Former Incumbent	Dept	New Incumbent	Date Filled
Office Associate	Maggie Sinclair	ADRC	Trudy Mazel	3/18/19
Engineer Tech	NEW	Hwy	Lori Raven	3/18/19
Sanitarian	Travis Peterson	HHS	Paul Wilson	3/11/19
Social Worker (APS)	Martha Moyer	HHS	Kayla Scott	3/21/19
Communication Officer	Trudy Mazel	Sheriff	Kelsey Ayash	3/14/19
CSP Nurse-PT	Hannah Thalacker	HHS	Lynzi Seifert	6/4/19
Correction Officer	Christian Tshimanga	Sheriff	Haley Sather	6/20/19
Highway Seasonal/LTE & Highway Summer	Approx 20-25	Hwy	Various	Various Dates
B-3 Early Interventionist	Brenda Baribeau	HHS	Joyce Pond	5/14/19
Communication Officer	Betsy Elizabeth Theis	Sheriff	Trever Miller	4/4/19
Clinical Social Worker	Jeni Olson	HHS	Kim Nerison (replaced as SW NOT clinical)	7/1/19
Social Worker Ongoing	miranda Simpkins	HHS	Bobbi Luettergodt	5/30/19
Plant Operator	Dan Clemmens	WTE	Matt Bryngelson	5/3/19
Maintenance Mechanic	Matt Bryngelson	WTE	Tyler Frisinger	8/26/19
Jail Program Coordinator	Sandy Kodesh	Sheriff	Amanda Poppe	1/4/20
Social Worker Initial Assessment	Myranda Wallace	HHS	Danielle Neurer	7/29/19
Correction Officer	Corey Fiamoncini	Sheriff	Tennes Fankhauser	7/10/19
Maintenance Mechanic	Tennes Fankhauser	WTE	Recruiting	
Registered Dietitian Nutrition-	Marla Prytz	HHS	Recruiting	
Social Worker Initial Assessment	Bobbie Luettergodt	HHS	Elizabeth Kaltenberg-Plummer	8/1/19
Social Worker Initial Assessment	Hope Larsen	HHS	Heather Russo	8/26/19

- Promoted June as Employee Well-Being Month. Weekly emails distributed with well-being topics & tips. ADRC offered memory screening with 35 employees participating.
- Promoted Teledoc use through County health insurance plan. About 40 employees signed up for Teladoc!
- Rolling out new Organization On-boarding process for new hires to increase retention and learn more about Barron County (strategic plan, budget overview, policy overview, organization expectations, facility tours, Q & A).

Health & Human Services

Stacey Frolik, Director

As the season of fall is fast approaching, our Energy Assistance Program is preparing for another season. This program provides a one-time heat and electric benefit to consumers who meet the eligibility requirements. The 2019-2020 season begins October 1, 2019 and runs through May 15, 2020. People can apply for Energy Assistance with a scheduled appointment (either in person or by phone) or by completing a paper application. Those requesting to schedule an appointment or have an application mailed to them should call 715-537-6340. Paper applications can also be picked up at the DHHS reception area. The Home Energy Plus Program uses a previous three-month income test which is annualized to determine program income eligibility. Below are the income guidelines for the 2019-2020 year.

60 Percent of State Median Income Guidelines

Household Size	3 Month Income	Annual Income
1	\$7,168.25	\$28,673
2	\$9,374.00	\$37,496
3	\$11,579.50	\$46,318
4	\$13,785.25	\$55,141
5	\$15,991.00	\$63,964
6	\$18,196.50	\$72,786
7	\$18,610.00	\$74,440
8	\$19,023.75	\$76,095

Our Public Health Accreditation is one step closer to being completed. Our work plan has been approved by the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) and we are working toward meeting the goals of the work plan.

The July 19, 2019 tornado that went through Barron County left a trail of devastation across the county. DHHS began working with Emergency Management the Monday following the storm and activated a Volunteer Reception Center (VRC) on Friday and Saturday July 26 and 27th to organize a cleanup effort. 156 volunteers spent over 940 hours completing 145 work orders across the county. The VRC partnered with 211 Wisconsin to organize the work orders through Crisis Cleanup. Many individuals, private businesses and nonprofits supported this clean up effort.

DHHS, the Barron County Court System and Wisconsin CASA Association have been collaborating to create a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) program in Barron County which will ultimately serve as a regional model with surrounding counties. "CASA is central to fulfilling society's most fundamental obligation by making sure a qualified, compassionate adult will fight for and protect a child's right to be safe, to be treated with dignity and respect, and to learn and grow in the security of a loving family."

Waste to Energy & Recycling

Ray Zeman, Director

Financials

The Waste to Energy financials for 2019 have been impacted negatively due to two areas. The steam sales and electrical generation revenues are down for the following reasons:

Steam sales to the Saputo Cheese factory are priced proportional to the natural gas prices. The natural gas prices have been dropping since January and are forecast to hold at a low rate for the remainder of the year. Compared to 2018 our steam sales for the first six months are down approximately \$100,000.00

Electrical generation revenues are down due to earlier in the year turbine / generator repairs. Repairs have been completed as of March and electrical generation sales are forecasted to stay steady through the remainder of the year. A short fall of \$60,000.00 from budgeted numbers is expected.

A loan of \$529,094.00 has been approved for dissolving past advances and a water treatment upgrade. The water treatment upgrade has expectations to save \$60,000.00 to \$80,000.00 / year in chemical savings and water disposal.

Effects of the Recent Storm

Many departments were affected by the recent storm and the WTE department was not left out. We did not experience any building or site damage. However, we were affected in several other ways. When the WTE facility has a loss of utility power we lose the option of selling steam to Saputo and also the option of electrical sales to the grid. During an extended power failure as we experienced it is necessary to shut down the entire plant. On a more typical power outage that has a short duration we are able to restore power relatively quickly and sustain equipment operation.

Recycling Future

The recycling future of the Barron county responsible unit is currently in the process of looking into the possibility of manned recycling sites to assist with cleaning up the recycling stream that is delivered to the county material recovery facility. The drop boxes that are distributed throughout the county has witnessed a lot of **WISH** recycling. We have toured the Dunn county recycling facility and their manned site locations. Material received into their MRF is substantially cleaner than Barron County.

Public Drop Off Site

Waste to Energy is currently in the process of designing and procuring a public drop off site. This site will be located west of the tipping floor entrance and cut into the west bank. The public will be able to drop off their waste without entry into the building. The site will consist of roll off bins with the top of the box being at ground level. Each roll off will be designated for a specific waste. As roll offs fill they will either be shipped for recycling or bypassed to the landfill. Design and labor will be provided by the Highway Department.

Air Emissions Upgrade

Waste to Energy is currently undergoing investigation into an upgrade involving their acid gas removal system. During the incineration process a chemical reaction takes place and an off gassing occurs. To assure the facility maintains their emissions at state and federal levels a reagent in the form of lime is entered into the gas stream to neutralize and capture acids. The current system all though works very well there is room for improvement. Current discussions are taking place and estimates of improving efficiency as far as 90 % utilization of product vs. our current utilization of 20% is being proposed. We are currently on track to utilize approximately \$80,000.00 / year of lime expenditures.